Washington, D.C. Today, Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. issued the following statement regarding the announcement by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia to cease holding federal court in Thomasville:

"I wholeheartedly appreciate and understand the importance of keeping federal court in Thomasville to ensure that cases are tried locally and among the people of the community. Thomasville is a vibrant, growing city whose continued livelihood depends in part on accessibility to government and law enforcement services, such as those provided through a federal courthouse.

Since being notified of this situation, we have been reaching out to all of the involved parties, including the office of Mayor Lewis and the judges. Moving forward, we will explore all of the available options with a view toward keeping this building open and allowing the federal court to remain in Thomasville."